

NAPA COUNTY WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2026 – 2027 GRANT FUNDING REQUEST APPLICATION

I. DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

1. Type of organization or business

North Bay Bear Collaborative under fiscal sponsorship of Sonoma Ecology Center.

2. Purpose for which organization was formed

The North Bay Bear Collaborative is a working group of non-profit organizations, tribes, landowners, and agencies committed to serving as proactive liaisons between humans and bears. The Collaborative works together to teach people how to live among bears safely, train youth in wildlife conservation, and ultimately rebuild a bear culture in the North Bay. One of our primary goals is to mitigate future challenges that may arise from our interactions with bears. We are actively improving infrastructure on private lands and within parks and open space by installing bear proof trash cans and food storage containers in campgrounds and backcountry sites.

Current Bear Collaborative partners include All Hands Ecology, the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center, California State Parks, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, the Land Trust of Napa County, Meghan Walla-Murphy, the Oakland Zoo, One Tam/Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Pepperwood Preserve, private landowners, ranchers, and vineyards, Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma Ecology Center, Sonoma Land Trust, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, the UC Davis Mammalian Ecology and Conservation Unit, and dozens of dedicated volunteers. For more information on the Collaborative partners please see our story map (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4621b4e460ff46bb8718b154b7d17de5>).

Beyond outreach and infrastructure, the North Bay Bear Collaborative is committed to furthering basic understanding of the North Bay's local bear population, dispersal, and habitat use through scientific research and knowledge development. In 2020 the North Bay Bear Collaborative started working with CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to better understand bear abundance and relatedness through a scat and hair DNA study. After the CDFW's three-year study was complete, the North Bay Bear Collaborative continued and expanded the study. This year (2026) is the seventh year of the study making it one of the longest running black bear genetic studies in California.

Beyond our ongoing DNA study, the North Bay Bear Collaborative uses wildlife cameras to track the locations, seasonality, and movements of black bears. Pepperwood initiated the first research camera grid in 2012 and subsequent camera grids were established by the Land Trust of Napa County, One Tam, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, and Sonoma County

Regional Parks. The North Bay Bear Collaborative uses this data to better understand bear behavior and habitat use. This information is helping members prioritize areas where human bear interactions may become challenging. This data and information is being shared directly with CDFW and other local and state agencies.

The North Bay Bear Collaborative is dedicated and actively engaged in public outreach to ensure that both bears and humans remain safe and thriving in the North Bay. In our experience, the best way to create coexistence between black bears and humans will be through continued education. Members from our collaborative regularly give presentations and share information through social media.

Sonoma Ecology Center is the fiscal sponsor for the North Bay Bear Collaborative. Founded in 1990, Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC) is a local non-profit dedicated to working with our community to identify and lead actions that achieve and sustain ecological health in Sonoma Valley and beyond. Since 2012, SEC has been a founding partner of Team Sugarloaf, managing day to day operations of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in collaboration with California State Parks. In conjunction with our work at Sugarloaf, SEC became the fiscal sponsor and member of the North Bay Bear Collaborative (NBBC, www.beingwithbears.org) in 2019.

3. Tax-exempt status

Sonoma Ecology Center is a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. Federal EIN# 94-3136500

4. Date formed as a nonprofit

Founded in 1990, Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC) was recognized as a nonprofit exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in March 1996. It is also classified as a public charity under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

North Bay Bear Collaborative was founded in 2019.

5. Membership: restrictions, number of members, fees, etc.

The North Bay Bear Collaborative is a partnership of 19 entities working together to support black bear conservation and foster human-wildlife coexistence across the region. The North Bay Bear Collaborative maintains a volunteer base of over 600 individuals who support our ongoing work.

To help fund bear scat sample collection and support operations, we offer several donation levels for supporters. These tiers include “Sponsor a Scat” (\$125), “Papa Bear” (\$250), and “Mama Bear” (\$500). While these levels currently do not include specific amenities, we are

actively working with our NBBC partners to develop meaningful benefits for future donors. At this time, around 20 individuals have contributed through these donation tiers, demonstrating early and enthusiastic support for this developing initiative.

<https://beingwithbears.org/donate/>

6. Names of Board of Directors; contact person (include phone number, email address, mailing address)

Sonoma Ecology Center [Board of Directors](#)

Address: PO Box 1486, Eldridge, CA, 95431

Telephone No: 707-933-7426 / 707-200-8134/ 310-566-3623

Email: wendy@sonomaecologycenter.org / maria@sonomaecologycenter.org / phoksumdo.mwm@gmail.com

Contact Persons and Titles: Wendy Hayes, Sonoma Ecology Center- SEC Research Project Manager / Maria Mauricio- Sugarloaf Volunteer Coordinator / Meghan Walla-Murphy - NBBC Project Lead

II. NEEDS ASSESSMENT/Problem Statement

1. Clear statement of problem

Through the work of partners in the Bear Collaborative, we have gained a preliminary understanding of the habitat use, population abundance, and density of black bears in Napa County and across the North Bay region. In Napa County, existing scat sampling has been carried out by community volunteers and staff at Dunn-Wildlake and Napa Headwaters Preserves. Scat sampling surveys have also been conducted at Robert Louis Stevenson State Park and Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. Since 2020, we have detected over 40+ individual bears in the Angwin and Mt. St. Helena area. In combination with wildlife camera data, we are observing a robust population of reproductive bears in the Angwin and Mt. St. Helena areas.

In the summer of 2025, three Land Trust of Napa County preserves in this area were burned in the Pickett Fire (second time in 5 years), and we were not able to collect samples. Scat collection in the coming year will help us better understand the response of bears to landscape scale disturbance. This data will also be used by the Land Trust of Napa County to plan and implement appropriate black bear habitat enhancement projects (e.g. forest health treatments in remaining Douglas-fir stands, revegetation with native plants favored by black bears, etc.).

Additionally, with this funding, we could address a gap in understanding how bears are using recently expanded habitat corridors in the mountain ranges between the city of Napa and Angwin. Land protection efforts in the Atlas Peak area (Mead Ranch, Walt Ranch, and Sutro Preserve) provide an opportunity to expand the DNA study in an area where public

education (Mead Ranch) and public access (Walt Ranch) is actively being expanded. This data will be used to inform and expand the North Bay Bear Collaborative's efforts to conduct outreach and education in Napa County about how to avoid or minimize bear-human conflicts. A key example is providing guidance on managing attractants (e.g. trash, pet food, bird feeders, beehives, compost, etc.) that are likely to lure wild animals into neighborhoods.

As we continue to learn about the growing black bear population in Napa County, expanding local participation is essential to ensuring that research, habitat conservation, and coexistence efforts are guided by organizations and communities within the county. Participation in the Collaborative is open to any interested organization, and we see significant opportunities to strengthen Napa County's role within this regional network.

A priority is becoming actively involved with the Napa County Wildlife Habitat Conservation Coalition (NCWHCC), whose mission, "to promote open space preservation, habitat restoration, wildlife conservation, and collaboration," closely aligns with that of the NBBC. By participating in Coalition meetings, sharing black bear research and habitat connectivity findings, and offering presentations or guided tours of black bear habitat in Napa County, we hope to foster new partnerships and encourage additional organizations to join the Collaborative.

2. Specific objective & specific dollar amount requested

The requested \$15,000 grant from the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission will support DNA laboratory analysis and outreach efforts in Napa County (**see Attachment 1: Expenditure Details**).

The requested funds will support this critical DNA study to build upon existing population estimates and improve our understanding of black bear abundance, habitat use, diet, genetic diversity, and dispersal patterns in Napa County. In particular, the study will help clarify east-west movement patterns and habitat connectivity. This information will support effective wildlife management and help inform future habitat conservation and restoration efforts specific to Napa County's unique ecosystems.

In addition to supporting field and laboratory research, we are requesting partial support for Principal Investigator (PI) staff time to strengthen partnerships with Napa County organizations, expand community engagement, and increase local participation in the North Bay Bear Collaborative.

To accomplish this work, we are requesting partial support for the Sonoma Ecology Center's Research Project Manager and Volunteer & Community Science Coordinator. Together, these positions provide project management, analysis and reporting, partnership development, volunteer coordination, administrative support, event coordination, and community

outreach needed to expand the Collaborative's presence in Napa County.

The Sonoma Ecology Center will continue to provide the majority of financial support for its participation in the North Bay Bear Collaborative. However, given current fiscal constraints, dedicated funding for Napa County activities will allow staff to sustain partnerships, expand outreach, and build long-term local capacity for black bear conservation.

1. Refine spatial capture-recapture methods using DNA extraction and genetic analysis of black bear fecal samples to estimate abundance and density in Napa County.
2. Collect and analyze black bear fecal DNA to evaluate population size, genetic diversity, relatedness, diet, and movement patterns.
3. Improve understanding of habitat use, dispersal, and east-west connectivity to inform habitat conservation and wildlife management.
4. Continue mapping scat collection sites, camera detections, tracks, and confirmed observations to identify habitat use and wildlife corridors.
5. Expand collaboration with Napa County conservation organizations through participation in the **Napa County Wildlife Habitat Conservation Coalition (NCWHCC)**, presentations, and guided field tours.
6. Support long-term monitoring of black bear populations across Napa, Sonoma, and Marin Counties to track population trends, seasonal movements, and human-bear interactions.
7. Collect black bear fecal DNA to track population and movement. Based on camera trap data, we hope to find at least 35 samples in Napa County.
8. Estimate local black bear abundance and density to establish a baseline for conservation as bears reestablish in the region.
9. Analysis of bear dispersal, occurrence, and genetic diversity and relatedness within Napa and its connections to nearby populations to inform conservation management strategies.
10. Define range, habitat use, and movement corridors through maps of scat collection sites, camera captures, tracks, and confirmed observations.
11. Become actively involved with the Napa County Wildlife Habitat Conservation Coalition (NCWHCC) by participating in meetings, sharing updates on the North Bay Bear Collaborative's research and conservation efforts, and identifying opportunities for collaboration with local conservation organizations. We also plan to offer a presentation or guided field tour highlighting black bear habitat, habitat connectivity, and coexistence strategies in Napa County to increase awareness and foster new partnerships.
12. This research will also support a long-term black bear monitoring initiative across Napa, Sonoma, and Marin Counties, tracking population trends, seasonal movements, and bear-human interactions to aid in conservation and management.

3. Anticipated results, with timeline

- **Phase 1: Preparation (Spring to early Summer 2026)**- The North Bay Bear Collaborative will sample in new study locations in Napa County and assemble field DNA collection kits.
- **Phase 2: Data Collection & Community Engagement (Summer–Fall 2026)**- Scat samples will be collected across 4 km² grid cells and opportunistic sites by trained teams over four-day intervals. Existing camera traps will monitor bear presence, and the NCWHCC involvement and land trust membership newsletter will promote coexistence and support ongoing fundraising.
- **Phase 3: Analysis, Reporting & Outreach (Late Fall 2026–Spring 2027)**- UC Davis will analyze genetic samples to identify individual bears, estimate population size, and map movement patterns. Results will be shared through outreach events and used to inform regional bear management strategies. Prepare for 2027 sampling.

4. Detailed description of methods planned to achieve objective

2026 Phase 1: Prepare for 2026-2027 DNA Study -

All involved partners are experienced and well-positioned to conduct this research project. For thirty years, SEC has engaged the community and collaborated with multiple government agencies, organizations, landowners, and volunteers in field research, environmental education, habitat restoration and protection (including the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor:

<https://sonomaecologycenter.org/sonoma-valley-wildlife-corridor/>). SEC as a lead partner in Team Sugarloaf, manages Sugarloaf Ridge State Park and continues to detect bear as part of a long-term wildlife camera monitoring program. Likewise, SEC's Research Team is experienced in watershed sciences, habitat assessments and biological population studies, including work with sensitive and listed species.

The North Bay Bear Collaborative's core team includes expert bear trackers, field biologists, and a network of wildlife camera specialists sharing data on recent bear sightings. This collaborative and a corps of volunteers will be guided by field researchers at SEC, CDFW, and UC Davis.

To prepare for this year's expanded DNA study, the Collaborative will work with the Land Trust of Napa County to sample Dunn-Wildlake and new locations in Napa County. We will prepare this year's materials, study sites, and recruit volunteers. The preparation phase includes creating field DNA collection kits, DNA collection training days, distributing training and education materials for field DNA collection, and creation of volunteer teams.

The North Bay Bear Collaborative has research permission from the Land Trust of Napa County to collect scat samples at Dunn-Wildlake, Mead Ranch, Walt Ranch, and Sutro Preserve.

2026 Phase 2: Data Collection and Community Engagement - DNA will be collected through bear scat. To gather necessary data, the Collaborative relies on trained researchers, wildlife trackers, and 50 volunteers to conduct field transects to collect scat samples. As samples can only be gathered in the dry months of the year, we begin in June and end with the first rains of fall. For detailed protocols on our collections methods please see our attached **Appendix A**.

These samples will be collected from pre-established study grids as well as opportunistic collection from scat outside of the study sites. Ideally transects will be surveyed four consecutive days. The same team of volunteers/crew leaders will complete all four days. This will ensure consistency of collection. An experienced field staff member will lead each volunteer team to ensure quality control. Each grid cell will be split into quarters. One quarter will be sampled each day. The volunteer team will conduct a meandering transects, informed by bear sign, across this quarter to ensure the most complete coverage.

In addition to DNA sample collection, camera traps will be monitored for black bear presence and to attempt to identify individuals. Scat samples will be delivered to the UC Davis Mammalian Ecology and Conservation Unit lab for genetic analysis, adhering to protocols for safe storage and transport. Community bear awareness activities, including online and in person meetings, will be organized by Collaborative members to increase community awareness on reducing human-bear conflict, protecting resources, and managing personal property and waste. Ongoing donation appeals will go out through the Bear Collaborative website, newsletters and at outreach events.

2026 Phase 3: Data Analysis, Reporting, Community Outreach -

Samples are preserved in accordance with protocols given to us by Dr. Ben Sacks at UC Davis. The UC Davis Mammalian Ecology and Conservation Unit lab will conduct the data analysis of DNA samples. We have been working closely with Dr. Sacks who analyzed our DNA samples from the previous 6 years. He has been instrumental in developing our protocol to ensure that our sample size has statistical relevance. For further information regarding Dr. Sacks' lab, please visit <https://mecu.ucdavis.edu/dr-ben-sacks/>

Results from the fecal DNA collected in previous years yielded an unusually high success rate, compared to other studies in California, with 63% yielding clean DNA. In addition to the DNA analysis, we will be mapping bear occurrences and dispersal. There will be community outreach sharing results and project findings; ongoing fundraising to help continue to support the study annually as well as continued collaboration with the Collaborative to discuss findings and develop an adaptive management plan based on study results.

5. Clear statement of benefit relative to the goals of the Commission Advancing the Protection, Conservation, Propagation, and Preservation of Fish and Wildlife in Napa County.

a. Identify the approved expenditure item(s) the project complies with from CDFG Code §13103 (attached) and which WCC priorities as listed in Selection Criteria Priorities, below.

13103. Expenditures from the fish and wildlife propagation fund of any county may be made only for the following purposes:

(a) Public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, consisting of supervised formal instruction carried out pursuant to a planned curriculum and aids to education such as literature, audio and video recordings, training models, and nature study facilities.

The North Bay Bear Collaborative engages the public in wildlife science through volunteer DNA collection training, bear-awareness community forums, and digital/print educational materials on coexistence and conservation strategies.

(i) Scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or governmental agencies, if approved by the department.

This project is carried out in collaboration with UC Davis Mammalian Ecology and Conservation Unit, a qualified research institution, and is built on six years of successful and scientifically rigorous DNA analysis.

6. Describe how you intend to determine if the proposed activity is successful

Now in its seventh year, this statistically robust DNA study, developed with guidance from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) scientists, continues to generate reliable population estimates while advancing our understanding of black bear distribution, movement, and genetic connectivity across the North Bay. Over the long term, the study aims to establish a comprehensive estimate of the region's black bear population and track genetic relationships, dispersal, and population trends over time.

With a better understanding of how many black bears are in the North Bay and how they are dispersing, we will be more informed regarding bear and habitat management, able to mitigate negative bear/human encounters (wildlife conflict) and proactively engage our communities. The Bear Collaborative will be publishing the study results to its websites and social media as well as holding community meetings and presentations for interested stakeholders, including local and regional agencies, nonprofits, landowners, trash companies, and the public. The Bear Collaborative and SEC will also be working with the local media to share results and stories from the study. NBBC will distribute the study results in the appropriate forms to each audience; for example, agencies may need detailed GIS mapping and genetics information to help manage habitat while the public will need broad-based knowledge about how they can help reduce human-bear conflict and manage personal property and waste.

What happens next to conserve the bears? Once we determine the number and locations of bears, we will collaborate with local landowners, residents, and businesses to develop strategies that keep bears wild and reduce habituation to human presence. Our efforts will focus on reinforcing infrastructure in bear-dense areas such as homes, businesses, and parks to limit easy access to trash while also working with residents and businesses on deterrent strategies for livestock, vineyards, and beehives.

III. ATTACHMENTS

1. Expenditure detail (sample templates can be provided upon request)

1. EXPENDITURE DETAILS						
Labor Costs						
Activity	Rate* (\$/hr)	Unit (Total Hrs)	In-Kind Contributions (Hrs)	Requested Funds	Matching Funds	Total
<i>NBBC Project Investigator (PI)</i>	150.00	526	500	\$3,900.00	\$95,000.00	\$98,900.00
<i>Analysis/Reporting, Project Management, Collaboration</i>	120.00	60	47	\$1,560.00	\$5,640.00	\$7,200.00
<i>Volunteer, Admin and Event Support</i>	100.00	60	36	\$2,400.00	\$3,600.00	\$6,000.00
<i>Bear Scat Surveys- NBBC Volunteers</i>	41.75	700	700		\$29,225.00	\$29,225.00
<i>Bear Scat Surveys- Volunteer Crew Leaders</i>	50.00	96	96		\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00
Labor Cost Total for Personnel						\$146,125.00
Services & Supplies (detail by type)						
Description		Unit	Unit Cost	Requested Funds	Matching Funds	Total
<i>Field kit supplies, ethanol, collection bottles, first aid, safety gear</i>		—	—	\$140.00	\$200.00	\$340.00
<i>Volunteer training materials (protocols and procedures)</i>		—	—		\$100.00	\$100.00
<i>DNA Lab Testing – Napa samples (~35 @ \$200/sample)</i>		35	\$200.00	\$7,000.00		\$7,000.00
Services & Supplies Total						\$7,440.00
GRAND TOTAL				Requested Funds	Matching Funds	Total
				\$15,000.00	\$138,565.00	\$153,565.00

2. List of other funding sources (i.e. matching funds)

2. List of other funding sources (i.e. matching funds)			
Role/Contribution	Rate	Hours	Amount
<i>NBBC Project Investigator (PI)</i>	\$150.00	500	\$95,000.00
<i>Analysis/Reporting, Project Management, Collaboration</i>	\$120.00	47	\$5,640.00
<i>Volunteer, Admin and Event Support</i>	\$100.00	36	\$3,600.00
<i>Bear Scat Surveys- NBBC Volunteers</i>	\$25.00	700	\$29,225.00
<i>Bear Scat Surveys- Volunteer Crew Leaders</i>	\$45.00	96	\$4,800.00
<i>Field kit supplies, ethanol, collection bottles, first aid, safety gear</i>	—	—	\$200.00
<i>Volunteer training materials (protocols and procedures)</i>	—	—	\$100.00
Matching Funds			\$138,565.00

3. Completion/progress report of projects completed over past 5 years with the use of Fish & Game Fine Monies.

North Bay Bear Collaborative 2025–2026 Napa WCC Grant Deliverables Summary

While field sampling efforts were significantly affected by circumstances beyond the project's control, including the Pickett Fire and prolonged periods of unsuitable weather, the North Bay Bear Collaborative remained committed to advancing the goals of this grant. A substantial portion of our Napa County sampling efforts occur on Napa Land Trust properties, particularly in the Angwin area, as well as Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, and a few private properties on the napa boundary line next to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. The Pickett Fire, first reported on August 21, 2025, impacted both Duff Preserve and Wildlake Preserve, two primary DNA sampling locations, while weather conditions resulted in the cancellation of planned surveys after October 2025.

Despite these challenges, project partners adapted by expanding opportunistic sample collection, strengthening partnerships with Napa County organizations, investing in volunteer training and community outreach, and increasing wildlife camera monitoring capacity. As detailed in the following sections, the grant supported meaningful progress across multiple project objectives, including public education, volunteer engagement, wildlife monitoring, equipment deployment, and continued black bear conservation efforts throughout Napa

County. The Sonoma Ecology Center was awarded \$6,820.00. A total of \$4,618.09 was expended, leaving an unspent balance of \$2,201.41.

Labor Costs

NBBC Project Investigator (PI) – Community Meetings and Outreach

The Project Investigator completed approximately 18 hours of planning, coordination, travel, and presentation time associated with three community meetings focused on black bear conservation and coexistence in Napa County.

- **Meeting 1 – May 20, 2026: Data and Connectivity Workshop**

This meeting brought together conservation organizations, researchers, land trusts, and community members to discuss black bear movement, habitat connectivity, wildlife corridor planning, and conservation priorities within Napa County and the greater North Bay region. Participants reviewed current research, discussed movement barriers, and explored opportunities to use DNA and wildlife camera data to support future conservation planning.

- **Meeting 2 – May 28, 2026: Bear DNA Sampling Volunteer Training**

Hosted at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, this training prepared volunteers and community members for the annual DNA sampling season. Participants learned black bear scat identification, sample collection protocols, safety procedures, sample prioritization methods, and documentation requirements. Volunteers were also introduced to outreach opportunities supporting community science efforts throughout Napa County and neighboring regions.

- **Meeting 3 – Online Zoom Recording: Outreach and Community Engagement Planning**

Meghan Walla-Murphy and the Land Trust of Napa County to develop a Napa County-specific online presentation highlighting local NBBC research, volunteer opportunities, and conservation efforts for public access.

Total Expenditure: \$1750.00

Services & Supplies

Field Kit Supplies, Ethanol, Collection Bottles, First Aid, and Safety Gear

Three complete DNA field kits were assembled and distributed to Napa County-based partner organizations and volunteer crew leaders conducting bear monitoring efforts. Supplies included collection materials, preservation supplies, safety equipment, and field documentation materials.

Total Expenditure: \$405.76

Volunteer Training Materials

We were also able to create and distribute training materials for both volunteers and community members participating in the project. Field protocols, sampling procedures, and educational resources were developed to support DNA collection efforts and ensure consistency in field methods. Sampling protocols and training documents were produced in-house, while volunteer guidance brochures were professionally printed through VistaPrint for use during volunteer training, community meetings, and public outreach activities throughout Napa County.

Total Expenditure: \$485.03

DNA Lab Testing

Due to wildfire impacts and weather-related survey cancellations, fewer samples were collected than originally anticipated. However, NBBC continued to support bear monitoring efforts through opportunistic DNA sample collection reported by community members. Images of potential bear scat observations submitted by the public were reviewed by project staff, and when observations were determined to be likely black bear scat, trained volunteers or staff collected the samples following established protocols. Through this effort, three opportunistic black bear scat samples were collected and submitted to the UC Davis Mammalian Ecology and Conservation Unit for genetic analysis.

Because laboratory processing and genetic analysis are ongoing, results are not expected until late summer or early fall of 2026. These data will contribute to understanding black bear distribution, movement patterns, and genetic diversity within Napa County and the greater North Bay region.

Total Expenditure: \$525.00 (\$175.00 per/sample)

Equipment

Wildlife Cameras

The cameras will be installed on Napa Land Trust properties where bear activity has been documented or is suspected. These sites include areas that have not previously been surveyed through organized scat collection efforts. The camera network will help identify new locations of bear activity, guide future DNA sampling efforts, and support long-term monitoring of black bears within Napa County.

Five Bushnell wildlife cameras were purchased to expand monitoring efforts in Napa County.

Total Expenditure: \$982.98

Camera Installation Equipment

Additional equipment was purchased to support camera deployment, including SD cards, batteries, security boxes, and locking cables.

Total Expenditure: \$309.69



Remit payment address:
Sonoma Ecology Center
PO Box 1486
Eldridge, CA 95431

Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission
1195 Third Street, 2nd Floor
Napa, CA 94559
Grant Term: 9/1/25- 6/30/26
Grant Agreement for Bear Research Program 260094D
SEC project code: NBBC02

SEC project code: NBB002											Report 1					
Billable Line Items						Total Personnel	Miscellaneous Equipment not to Exceed \$10,000	Supplies & Materials	Educational Materials Not to Exceed \$2,500	Mileage, Current IRS rate	SubContracts	Total Expenses	Period of Performance: Sept 2025 - June 2026	Task Totals to Date	Budget	Remaining Budget
	Descriptions	Labor	Labor	Labor	Labor											
Project Investigator						-					1,750.00	1,750.00	1,750.00	1,750.00	1,750.00	\$0.00
						-						-	-	-		
Materials - from CA5241						-						-	-	-		
Field Supplies, training materials						-	1,050.42				1,050.42	1,050.42	1,050.42	1,050.42	1,100.00	\$49.58
DNA Lab Testing - Pepperwood						-	525.00				525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	2,692.00	\$2,167.00
Wildlife Cameras & Supplies						-	1,292.67				1,292.67	1,292.67	1,292.67	1,292.67	1,277.50	-\$15.17
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-	-		
													-			

For anyone interested in learning more about the project, please visit this story map created by UC Santa Barbara's Bren School of Environmental Science & Management students for the North Bay Bear Collaborative while we wait for our new website:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4621b4e460ff46bb8718b154b7d17de5>

4. For environmental education proposals: At least one (1) letter of support from a school board member, principal, teacher, etc.,

N/A

Appendix A:

2026 Bear Fecal DNA Field Collection and Opportunistic Protocols

https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRMGCwwW0UGqm22XrRM_hqkwTOjOt3jlkjLQQwW9e-qfAFkxnEcByNht2_lqJBXkQ/pub

2026 NBBC BEAR DNA PROJECT DATASHEET_OPPORTUNISTIC

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRd7JnEB4n7HkIHxQtTJ6BjjzU210rLapyuxToVBuMxcss-ZenXspSw8nMkHkLFA/pub>

2026 NBBC Scat collection data sheet

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTmEHonXHze3L7qmLEv7NamhC9u3wi3cVm2lRkrglLpFGFYrUiEASxVy7oflYwcQ/pub>

2026 Bear DNA Study Kit Field Supplies List

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSxsXwMCfIdDZPrcXJAw27GhubdtGqne0iNU5Jm25RhbnJErww0PcZr2MwFYRrq7khNOCbHwOO0J19w/pub>

Bear fecal protocol in photos

https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQrBzp9DL1uotV6LrQjNnyqr1N98a1v0_hn7XbhEND_UckupABP10LWGu6_0zl9iH2bCzThJuyJvWo/pub

NBBC Story Map

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4621b4e460ff46bb8718b154b7d17de5>